

310-G EYE EXAMINATIONS/OPTOMETRY SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

This policy applies to the Division's Administrative Services Subcontractors (AdSS).

Eye and optometric services are covered for members eligible for ALTCS when provided by qualified eye/optometry professionals within certain limits based on member age and eligibility.

Emergency eye care which meets the definition of an emergency medical condition is covered for all members eligible for ALTCS. For members who are 21 years of age or older treatment of medical conditions of the eye, excluding eye examinations for prescriptive lenses and the provision of prescriptive lenses, are covered. Vision examinations and the provision of prescriptive lenses are covered for members under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program, and for adults when medically necessary following cataract removal. Refer to Division Medical Policy Manual, Chapter 400 for detailed information regarding coverage of eye exams and prescriptive lenses for children.

Cataract removal is covered for all members eligible for ALTCS. Cataract removal is a covered service when the cataract is visible by exam, ophthalmoscopic or slit lamp, and any of the following apply:

- A. Visual acuity that cannot be corrected by lenses to better than 20/70 and is reasonably attributable to cataract
- B. In the presence of complete inability to see posterior chamber, vision is confirmed by potential acuity meter reading
- C. For the Division's American Indian Health Plan (Fee-For-Service) members, who have corrected visual acuity between 20/50 and 20/70, a second opinion by an ophthalmologist to demonstrate medical necessity may be required. Refer to the Contractors regarding requirements for their enrolled members.

Cataract surgery is covered only when there is a reasonable expectation by the operating ophthalmic surgeon that the member will achieve improved visual functional ability when visual rehabilitation is complete.

Cataract surgeries are generally done on an outpatient basis, but an inpatient stay may be required due to the need for complex medical and nursing care, multiple ocular conditions or procedures, or the member's medical status. Admission to the hospital may be deemed safer due to age, environmental conditions, or other factors.

Other cases that may require medically necessary ophthalmic services include, but are not limited to:

- A. Phacogenic Glaucoma
- B. Phacogenic Uveitis.